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Homemaker News
EXCLUSIVE TO STATE EXTENSION EDITORS
U.S.D.A. PRESS SERVICE, OFFICE OF INFORMATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE

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MIMEOGRAPHED MATERIAL
OCT 23 1938
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No. 260 October 1, 1938.

KEEPING DAHLIA ROOTS

Perhaps the most difficult part of dahlia culture comes at this time of year when the dormant roots must be stored.

Very shortly after the tops are killed by frost, says _____, extension floriculturist, _____
(Name) (Institution)
cut off the tops 3 or 4 inches above the ground and after a few days, lift the root clump from the soil, being careful not to break the "necks" by which the tubers are attached to the stem.

The roots should be allowed to dry in the air for a few hours and then stored in a frost-free cellar that is not too dry. This seems simple enough, but only experience can make one sure of the result. If the cellar is too warm or dry, which is a common difficulty, the roots should be stored in the coolest part, in barrels filled with peat moss, dry sand, or sawdust. Care must be taken that the storage material is perfectly dry as otherwise some roots will rot and damage the entire mass. Decay starts in wounds caused in digging.

In the spring as soon as the dormant eyes start to sprout, the individual tubers are separated, leaving an eye or sprout with each tuber. These can be planted as soon as all danger of frost is past.

There is a Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1370-F, Dahlias in the Home, which can be obtained free from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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